Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein collecting information includes crawling HTML page trees.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein collecting information includes crawling XML page trees.

4. (Previously Presented)The method according to claim 47, wherein collecting information includes collecting publicly accessible information.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 47, wherein the plurality of enterprises corresponds to a plurality of ~~collecting information includes collecting information from~~ auction sites offering items for purchase over the network and the enterprise databases ~~comprise~~ correspond to auction databases associated with the auction sites.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information from auction sites includes crawling HTML page trees.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information from auction sites includes crawling XML page trees.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information includes collecting publicly accessible information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

periodically collecting the information from the enterprises, and

updating the information stored in the host database.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein updating the information stored in the host database comprises updating the information stored in the host database with sufficient frequency to enable the shoppers to monitor and participate effectively in bidding activity at the auction sites.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

dynamically scheduling the collecting of information from the auction databases based upon content of previously collected information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

receiving, via the host user interface, an auction watch request from the selected shopper for a third selected item,

monitoring with the host computer a bidding activity at a specified auction site for the third selected item, in response to the received auction watch request, and

displaying the bidding activity to the shopper by way of the host user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising dynamically scheduling the collecting of information from the auction sites based upon content of previously collected information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

enabling the host user interface to accept from the shopper an update request, and

updating at least a portion of the information stored in the host database substantially in real-time in response to the update request.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

periodically collecting the information about the items from the enterprises, and

updating the information stored in the host database.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the host user interface to accept from the shopper an update request, and

updating at least a portion of the information stored in the host database substantially in real-time in response to the update request.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

enabling the host user interface to accept from the shopper an item watch request specifying a particular item for monitoring, and

monitoring the auction sites to detect if the specified item becomes available for bidding at the auction sites in response to the item watch request from the shopper.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising

providing the shopper with notification in response to detecting the specified item becoming available for bidding, wherein the host computer provides the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host user interface.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

detecting availability of items within the class of items at the auction sites.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising distinguishing between newly detected ones of the items from previously detected ones of the items.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

providing the shopper with notification regarding detection of the items within the class of items, wherein the host provides the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host user interface.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising providing the shoppers with notification of host-based events by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from the host user interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the host computer-initiated mechanism includes a communication mechanism chosen from electronic mail, Internet messaging, pager, facsimile, telephone, and Web telephone.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the host computer-initiated mechanism includes providing a hyperlink to the host user interface.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

searching the host database for items within the class of items, and

displaying auction information with regard to the items within the class of items to the shopper by way of the host user interface.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of specific keywords to restrict the class of items.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of at least one category to restrict the class of items.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of a combination of keywords and at least one category to restrict the class of items.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of particular ones of the auction sites to restrict the class of items.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of a particular type of auction site in which the shopper is interested to restrict the class of items.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the particular type of auction site includes person-to-person auctions and business-to-person auctions.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of a time frame in which the host computer detects that an item within the class is available at one of the auction sites.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the host user interface accepts from the shopper an indication of at least one of a specific price and a price range for the class of items.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein collecting information collecting updated information on a periodic basis.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising updating the host database with the updated information.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein storing the information comprises sorting and arranging the information according to a predetermined hierarchy of product and service categories.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein the information about the first selected product or service comprises information chosen from one of a description of the product or service, name of auction site, and type of auction.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein storing the collected information in the host database comprises storing the collected information within the host database according to categories established by the host computer.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the categories established by the host computer are chosen from one of a product or service type and a type of auction.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the categories established by the host computer include a hierarchy of product and service type categories and subcategories.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein searching by one or more keywords can be conducted within one or more of the categories.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein searching by categories can be conducted within a subset of the collected information identified by one or more keywords.

45. (Cancelled).

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for aggregating information, the method comprising:

receiving a specification of a class of items by a selected shopper via a host user interface provided by a host computer that is in communication with a plurality of enterprises over a network, wherein each enterprise offers items for exchange over the network, stores information about the items it offers in an enterprise database and interacts directly with shoppers;

in response to the specification of the class of items by the shopper, collecting information about a selected item within the class from at least two enterprises and information about a second selected item within the class from at least one enterprise;

storing the information collected from the enterprises in a host database; and

providing the information collected from the enterprises to the selected shopper via the host user interface.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for aggregating auction information from a plurality of auction sites, comprising:

providing a host site in communication with the auction sites via a network, wherein each auction site auctions items over the network, stores information about the items it offers in an auction database and interacts directly with bidders;

receiving a specification of a class of items by a selected bidder;

in response to the specification of the class of items by the bidder, determining items within the class of items;

searching the auction sites for items within the class of items;

collecting information about a selected item within the class from at least two of the auction sites and information about a second selected item within the class from at least one of the auction sites;

storing the information collected from the auction sites in a host database; and

providing the stored information to the selected bidder.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for searching for products or services offered for purchase by a plurality of auction sites, comprising:

providing a host site in communication with the auction sites via a network, wherein each auction site auctions products or services over the network, stores information about the products or services it offers in an auction database and interacts directly with bidders;

receiving a request from a selected bidder that specifies a keyword;

determining selected products or services associated with the keyword;

searching the auction sites for the selected products or services;

collecting information about a first selected product or service associated with the keyword from a first auction site and collecting information about a second selected product or service associated with the keyword from a second auction site; and

storing the collected information in a host database.